has been a constant power crisis in Kanpur. The common man and the industries are suffering due to errotic power supply. There is need to provide at least 100 crore rupees immediately to improve power supply position in Kanpur city which is not being given because the State is under President's rule. The Union Government is requested to intervene in the matter and make the money available.

Sir, the Government is requested to take immediate steps to ensure the uninterrupted power supply.

(ii) Need to Sanction Schemes forwarded by Government of Madhya Pradesh to Protect Ground Level Water in the State

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR (Khargone) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the water level in Madhya Pradesh is going down for the last several years due to scanty rainfalls and use of more and more water for agricultural purposes. It is a matter of concern and to deal with the situations it is imperative to maintain the ground water level. The State Government is formulating and implementing ground water schemes for its preservation/augmentation. Many jobs have been completed by the Department and also under the Jawahar Rojgar Yojna. The Department of Public Health Engineering has sent several schemes involving crores of rupees to the Central Government for its approval and providing financial assistance.

The Union Government is therefore requested to approve the schemes and provide adequate financial assistance for the same.

(iii) Need to treat all Telephone Exchanges within 20 kilometres range as local in Chhapra District, Bihar

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : The "Telecommunication Ministry" by implementing the metering based on Short Distance Charging Centre (SDCC) and Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA), concepts has created financial hardship for consumers in rural areas. In Chhapra district, Sonpur, which is a small sub-division located about 30 kilometers from Patna is treated as a local exchange while Marhowrah, which is 20 kilometres from Chhapra is charged on STD basis. Similarly, Marhowrah and Bheldi, which is less than 15 kilometres, is charged on STD rates. Charging rates which physically appear irregular and high due to proximity of exchanges but difference of SDCA and SDCC causes difference in rates. The Ministry should revise the concept and meanwhile direct the TDE Chhapra (Bihar) to do away with the system and treat all exchanges within 20 kilometres as local and rationalise the metering system all over the country.

(iv) Need to develop Sitamarhi in Bihar as a place of Tourist Resort

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Sitamarhi district is a historic place in the state of Bihar. Being the birth place of mother Goddess Sita, a large number of Hindu tourists not only from India but also other parts of the world visit this place. Kanhama of Parihar block and Balsai of Nanpur block in Sitamarhi district is the place of international reputed Madrasa and Sufi saints. Tourists from all over the world visit this place too. Sitamarhi is an important place in Northern Bihar. There has been a constant demand in the House as well as outside to include this area on the National Tourist Map and to provide road, rail, telecommunication and special broadcasting facilities here. Surveys were conducted many times but, survey reports are pending with the various departments of Government of India. The Union Government is, therefore, requested that the Sitamarhi district – of Bihar should be brought on the National tourist Map and it should be developed in the form of 'Janki Circuit'. For its development-Patna-Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi Sonvarsa and Bhittawore roads should be declared as National Highway and development work should be carried out on this road. In addition to a special Telecommunication centre, D.D. and AIR relay centres must be set up in Sitamarhi.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Sir, the Minister is not attentive.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Sir, the Minister is not giving any attention today. May be, he wants to say something.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your point has gone on record. If Minister wants to say something, I won't stop him.

(v) Need for Construction of a Highway cutting across the Sahyadris connecting Chennai and Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

[English]

SHRI A. SAMPATH (Chirayinkil) : The road traffic all over India is becoming congested day by day. In all the States, the number of the vehicles registered is on the increase every year. More highways should be constructed to save the time as well as the petroleum products. For long time, there was a pressing demand for the construction of a highway cutting across the Sahyadris connecting Chennai and Thiruvananthapuram through Ambasamudram of Tamil Nadu and Kottoor, Aryanand and Nedumangead of the Chirayinkeezhu Parliamentary Constituency in Thiruvananthapuram District of Kerala. If this highway is constructed, it would reduce the road distance between the two State capitals by more than 100 Kms. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to consider this proposal and do the needful at the earliest.

(vi) Need to enact a Legislation to preserve rich Bio-diversity of the Country

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA (Guwahati) : There is an urgent need to enact a Central legislation to preserve the country's rich biodiversity as large scale biopiracy is taking place all over the country, especially in the North-East, which is one of the most ecologically important spots of the world. the precious wealth of India's forests and fields, its rich biological and ecological resources are being plundered by foreign companies and their agents, causing loss of revenue